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REPORT

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## REVIEW MEDICAL PROGRESS DURING 1949

MEDICAL SUPPLY OUTPUT UP -- Universul, No 21, 27 Jan 50

Following the educational reform in Rumania, there are now four medico-pharmaceutical institutes and one general medical institute with five branches and 24 faculties. The five branches are general medicine, hygiene, pediatrics, stomatology, and pharmacy. Courses in hygiene, pediatrics, and stomatology have never before been given in Rumania. Thirty-five percent of the pupils, out of a total enrollment of about 9,300, are on scholarships. The children of workers and poor farmers account for 30 percent of the enrollment and children of office workers 40 percent.

In the past, the Ministry of Health was not interested in training specialists; specialized courses were offered only occasionally and were followed by students who had some personal interest in a particular field. The reason for the lack of specializing can be found in the fact that the specialists were not as well paid. Since the reorganization of the Ministry of Health, the field of preventive medicine has been emphasized more than curative medicine. Ideological training is given along with professional instruction.

The training methods are based on the experience of Soviet schools. General courses last 2 months, specialized courses 1-2 years, and courses in venereal diseases 6 months. In 1950, about 500 specialized doctors will be graduated and will be used primarily for combating tuberculosis.

Thirty-four percent of the students at the institutes are doctors from rural areas. They are promoted to doctors of the administrative districts if they show aptitude in their profession, in ideology, and in organizing. About 40 percent of the students come from the revised faculties; others have been taken from the ranks of the nonspecialized doctors who are not engaged in treating workers -- mostly from Bucharest. Courses are free, room and board are furnished for the nonresidents of Bucharest, and money is given to the nonalaried students.

The workers at the rest camps are given extensive medical care; 43,000 have been treated. At present, seven watering places are kept open during the whole year.

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On 11 June 1948 the chemico-pharmaceutical industry was nationalized and on 2 April 1949 the laboratories of chemical products. Thus, the state has at its disposal the means to assure the needed medical supplies to all Rumanians. In 1949, the production of medical supplies was 256 percent greater than in 1948.

The Ministry of Health has reorganized the distribution of medicines and sanitary supplies and now distributes these through 49 depots in the capitals of the judets, instead of the original 11 regional depots. In 1949, the Ministry of Health sent 518 carloads of medicines, instruments, equipment, and sanitary supplies to hospitals, TB sanatoriums, maternity homes, rest camps, and dietary kitchens. The ministry has established 94 pharmacies attached to installations -- 48 in Bucharest and 46 throughout the country. Hospitals, polyclinics, and sanatoriums have had pharmacies attached to them by the reorganization and redistribution of the existing pharmacies and the formation of new. In 1949, the Ministry of Health endowed, partially or completely, 138 pharmacies and also an additional 84 belonging to other ministries. The pharmacies established in 1949 by the Ministry of Health and attached to hospitals, polyclinics, and sanatoriums represented 40 percent of all pharmacies in existence on 1 January 1949.

The medicines and medical supplies which have been sent to the units under the control of the Ministry of Health for free distribution to workers were:

Penicillin, 984,566 ampoules (98 percent of plan)  
 Sulfamide, 9,143 kilograms and 300,000 ampoules for injections against seasonal bronchial pneumonia  
 Sulfur, 1,000 kilograms  
 Arseno-benzoic acid, 558,754 doses, and bismuth, 4,891,527 doses for anti-luetic treatments  
 "Akrikhin" (atabrine imported from USSR), 2,212,418 tablets; "Paludin" (antimalarial medicine) 4,024,345 tablets  
 Nicotinic acid, 1,296 kilograms, for pellagra  
 Glucose, 416,037 ampoules; diuretin, 1,044 kilograms for diuretics  
 Vitamin B, 538,517 ampoules (179 percent of plan); Vitamin C, 474,820 ampoules (98 percent); Vitamin D2, 139,920 ampoules (95 percent) -- an average of 115 percent of plan  
 Caffeine, 827,207 ampoules (145 percent); straphanthine, 24,120 ampoules; camphor oil, 442,454 ampoules (107 percent)  
 Ether, 5,155 kilograms (123 percent); ethyl chloride, 52,400 ampoules (84 percent); ethylene, 2,706 kilograms (106 percent)  
 Antipyrine, 2,178 kilograms (100 percent); aspirin, 5,818 kilograms (232 percent); pyramidon, 2,221 kilograms (94 percent); phenacetin, 1,613 kilograms (99 percent)

The distribution of drugs increased three times in 1949 as compared to 1948. Hospitals and dispensaries were supplied with 15,866 kilograms of barium sulfate (192 percent) to be used in X-ray examinations. Hospitals received 412,359 kilograms of soap (98 percent) for washing and laundry. The pharmacies were sent 98,407 kilograms of sugar for compounding syrups. Quantities of other medicines which had not been listed in the plan of the Ministry of Health were also supplied: 100 kilograms of para-amino salicylic acid for TB treatments, 15,560 boxes (200 doses per box) of "Axuris" for treatment of children with worms, and 40 kilograms of morphine chloride for use as a sedative.

Shipments of bandages, cotton, and sutures totaled 100,050 kilograms of absorbent cotton (112 percent), 13,080 kilograms of common cotton (142 percent), 9,097 kilograms of cellulose cotton (142 percent), 1,979,459 meters of gauze (121 percent), and 87,775 spools of surgical silk (176 percent).

The ministry supplied huge quantities of equipment and furnishings, including sheets, blankets, mattresses, towels, jackets, night clothes, bedpans, beds, medical instruments, and thermometers.

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Plan for 1950

The 1950 plan calls for the expanding of the chain of pharmacies, enlarging the existing drugstores, and establishing 120 pharmacies attached to hospitals and polyclinics. Special commissions will supervise the production and the quality of medicines so that the working class may be assured ample supplies of the very best products.

Public health will be safeguarded even more than in 1949 by increasing the medical care of workers in the industrial and rural centers. Infant mortality is to be decreased, more maternity homes will be founded, and a more intensive fight will be waged against tuberculosis, venereal diseases, and epidemic diseases. In 1950, the number of children's dispensaries will be increased by 150 in the rural and 58 in the urban regions, and 100 maternity homes in urban areas, one preventorium, and a children's home will be established, totaling, in all, 1,760 new beds. Schools will have 500 consultation rooms, 300 nurses, and 4,000 first-aid stations.

Thirty new TB dispensaries will be established and these will operate with the now-existing dispensaries in order to prevent, discover, and treat tuberculosis. The number of beds in the sanatoriums will also be increased. One million X-ray examinations, 3 million biological tests, and one million BCG vaccinations are to be effected in 1950. The fight against venereal and epidemic diseases will include about 4 million curative and preventive treatments and 4.5 million vaccinations. Eighty million square meters will be treated so as to destroy mosquitoes and three new antimalarial stations will be established.

New hospitals and polyclinics will be built and the number of beds will be increased by 1,265. In the rural areas, 100 dispensaries and 500 health centers will be in operation. The number of beds in the sanatoriums attached to the health resorts will be 1,000 more than in 1949; 220,000 persons (65 percent more than in 1949) will spend paid vacations at these resorts. Out of the 220,000 persons, 57,000 will be children and 17,000 apprentices.

BLOOD BANK SET UP -- Scanteia, No 1640, 22 Jan 50

The Ministry of Health has recently established a center for collection and transfusion of blood at Targu-Mures. This center, modeled on those in the USSR, is used as a laboratory of serology, biochemistry, and hematology, and works in conjunction with the Medicopharmaceutical Institute of Cluj.

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